

WINTER 2004

# MARINES GOUGE

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## 2004 IN REVIEW

### 4 | Operations

Marines continued to fight the Global War on Terrorism in 2004. They fought insurgents in Mosul, Fallujah, An Najaf and other Iraqi cities and offered aid to Iraqi citizens. They searched for Osama bin Laden and other al-Qaida and Taliban leaders in Afghanistan. They quelled unrest in Haiti and Liberia. In operations around the world, Marines fought against tyranny and aided those in need.



### 14 | Deployment

The operational tempo of 2004 took Marines to distant lands far from friends and family. During these chaotic and often dangerous deployments, Marines established a little bit of home. They celebrated holidays, set up daily routines and remembered loved ones left behind.

# SEMPER FIDELIS

## ON POINT

**AL ASAD AIR BASE, Iraq** – An AH-1W Cobra helicopter cuts through the sky as the sun sets here in the Al Anbar Province. More than 250 flights are coordinated each day in support of ongoing operations of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Chad McMeen*

**> ORUZGAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan** – Marines thread their way through a narrow village alley here in their search for weapons caches and anticoalition fighters during Operation Thunder Road June 30. The Marines are with C Company, Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 6th Marines, the ground combat element of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit. This was the final major combat operation undertaken by the MEU in Afghanistan. The operation began June 27 and ran through July 10.

*Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Keith A. Milks*



“You are the ‘Generation of Hope,’ establishing liberty and freedom, not only for America but for Iraq, Afghanistan and the rest of the world. Please accept these gifts as tokens of the hope and pride we feel regarding each of you. They cannot truly express the gratitude of a nation and pale in comparison to the hope you bring and give through your honor, courage and commitment. Thank you, Merry Christmas and may God bless you. Semper Fidelis.”

# GOUGE

MARINES

— Pavel Ivanov

Father of a Marine, wrote in a letter expressing his support for America's warrior youth. During the 2004 Christmas season he helped organize "Operation Stocking Stuffer," which delivered more than 700 gift-filled stockings to Marines deployed to Iraq.

## Family | 24

Life was a little quieter at the bases, camps and stations with Marines deployed – but families persevered. Spouses worked, paid bills, took care of kids and missed their Marines. They cried when Marines left and rejoiced when they returned.



## 28 | Training

Training constantly hones Marines' skills. Day in and day out Marines train. Marine Corps training is gritty and down in the dirt — as rigorous and realistic as possible. This is what prepares Marines for combat. Training is the essential element that makes the Corps America's 911 force. 2004 was no exception, when not engaged in battle or supporting combat, Marines redoubled their efforts to remain on point and sharp.



## People | 38

The Marine Corps is a conglomeration of individuals. Each has a story to tell. They come from all walks of life. Most are American citizens, but not all. They have myriad reasons for joining. Their common tie is that each chose to make the sacrifices necessary to claim the title Marine.



## 48 | Liberty

Marines work hard, but when the work is done it's time to play. Off-duty, Marines ski, surf and hike. They win marathons and visit amusement parks. Even during deployments, Marines take "breaks" for libo. Whether playing baseball in makeshift stadiums in Iraq or boxing in the desert, Marines this year made every minute count.



# MARINES

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# MARINES SOUND OFF

## New Generation of Marines Add to Corps' Legacy

EVERY GRADUATE OF MARINE CORPS RECRUIT TRAINING IS INSTILLED with honor and respect for the Marines who went before. We are told tales of past glory – of Marines fighting seemingly insurmountable odds to take a hill, defeat the enemy, or save lives. These heroes of the past seem larger than life.

This past year has proven that today's Marines have the same courage and indomitable spirit that propelled Marines like Dan Daly, John Basilone, Mitchell Paige and Smedley Butler to heroism.

Courage and heroism flourished overseas and here at home. Marines like Cpl. Jason Dunham and Sgt. Rafael Peralta acted selflessly to save fellow Marines. Dunham, a 22-year-old from Scio, N.Y., sacrificed his life by throwing his helmet and himself over a grenade to protect his fellow Marines April 14 in Karabilah, Iraq. Peralta, a Mexican-American from San Diego who received his American citizenship after he joined the Corps, pulled a grenade under his body, absorbing the explosion and saving the lives of four other Marines Nov. 14 in Fallujah, Iraq.

Even when not engaged in battle, Marines exemplify what it means to be one of the few. While visiting family during October in Livingston, Mont., 27-year-old Lance Cpl. Austin Stallard put his recently acquired fire fighting skills to good use. He coordinated the rescue of a mother and her son from a house fire then extinguished the blaze with a garden hose.

These courageous acts represent only a handful of heroic deeds performed by Marines this past year. Throughout 2004, Marines in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the globe put their lives on the line to fight the Global War on Terrorism. They defended democracy and protected freedom in Haiti and other hot spots. And Marines made countless sacrifices, leaving family and friends, working long hours in inhospitable climates, all in service to the Corps and our nation.

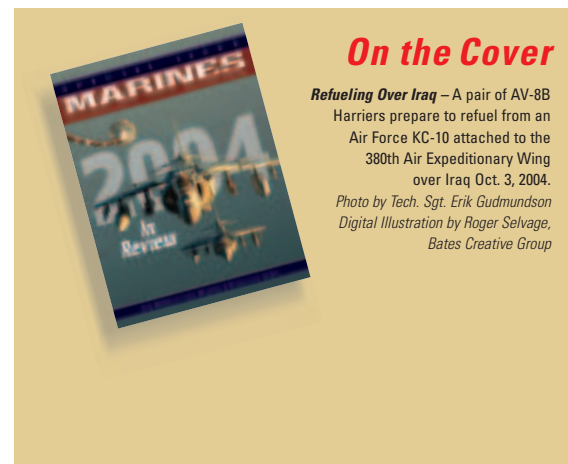
Marines also witnessed sorrow. We mourned as the flag-draped coffins of fallen warriors returned home. Our newspapers' headlines told of Marines engaged in bitter fighting in the streets of Iraqi cities. We watched brutal video clips of civilians murdered by insurgents. Some of these Marines came back to us forever changed by combat – bearing external and internal wounds.

This special issue of *Marines* captures only a glimpse of the many events of 2004. It is filled with examples of courage and esprit de corps by men and women on the front lines. It tells of the sacrifices and triumphs by Marines and families at home while Marines continue to add new chapters to the lore and tradition that the Corps holds dear. **M**



▲ **FALLUJAH, Iraq** – Gunnery Sgt. Ryan P. Shane pulls a fatally wounded Marine to safety while under fire during Operation Al Fajr Nov. 9. Shane was severely wounded seconds later by enemy fire. Under suppression fire, a group ran out and rescued Shane and recovered the other Marine. Shane, with B Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 7, was rushed out of the city, treated at a hospital and is now recovering from his injuries.

Photo by Cpl. Joel A. Chaverri



## On the Cover

**Refueling Over Iraq** – A pair of AV-8B Harriers prepare to refuel from an Air Force KC-10 attached to the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing over Iraq Oct. 3, 2004.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. Erik Gudmundson  
Digital Illustration by Roger Selvage,  
Bates Creative Group

Semper Fidelis,  
Marines